

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 1, 4, 12, 23, 24, and 25 are pending, of which, claim 1 is in independent form. By this paper, claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 25 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, claim 25 depends from independent claim 1, but for reasons set forth below, it is believed that amended independent claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, namely, 1, 4, 12, 23, 24, and 25 are in condition for allowance.

C. Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification “as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o).” Final Office Action, p.4. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the “platform that is open in a radial direction to form a radial direction opening,” as recited by claim 1. In that regard, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner’s attention to at least FIGS. 2 and 7 and pars. [0065] and [0066] of the pending application to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

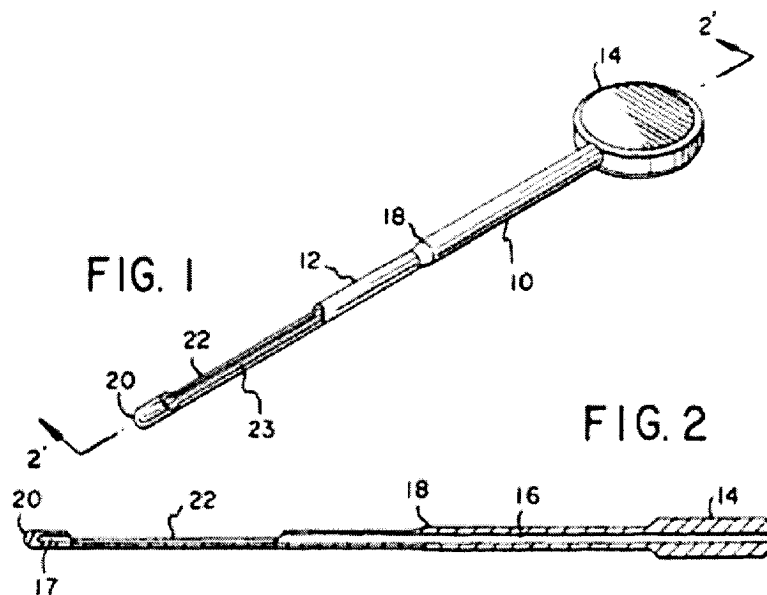
D. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 12, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,248,110 to Reiley et al. (“Reiley”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,545,136 to Berger (“Berger”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on the grounds that the cited reference is defective in establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

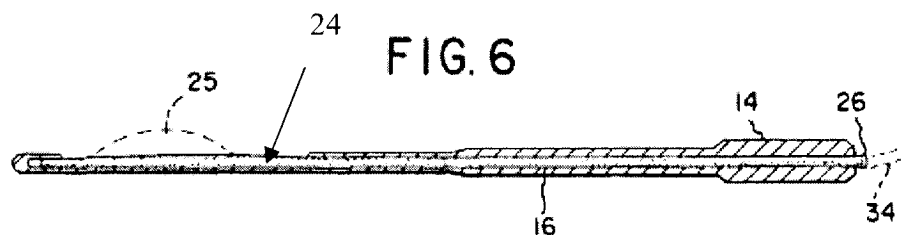
With respect to amended independent claim 1, even when combined, Reiley and Berger do not disclose or suggest the Applicants’ claimed method step of “securing the expandable

structure to the platform in a manner to maintain a predetermined rotational orientation between the expandable structure and the platform.” The Final Office Action states that Reiley “does not teach a platform that is open in a radial direction and has a side surface facing the radial direction.” Office Action, p.3. The Examiner relies on Berger for these teachings. However, even when combined, Reiley and Berger do not disclose all of the recited features of amended independent claim 1.

Referencing FIGS. 1 and 2 reproduced below from Berger, the Examiner identified cutout portion 22 of tube 12 as corresponding to the claimed platform.



In that regard, as shown below in annotated FIG. 6, Berger appears to disclose that “a balloon catheter 24 [can] be mounted and secured in lumen 16 so that the grooved director and balloon catheter form a single assembly.” Berger, col.3 ll.57-60.



However, Bereger does not appear to teach securing balloon catheter 24 to the cutout portion 22 in a manner to maintain a predetermined rotational orientation between balloon catheter 24 and cutout portion 22 as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, even when combined, Reiley and Berger

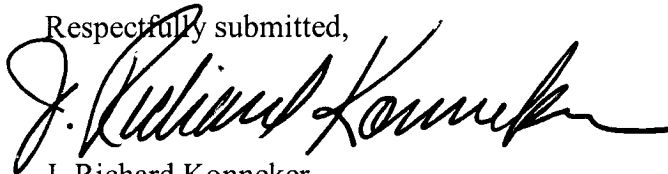
do not teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed method step of "securing the expandable structure to the platform in a manner to maintain a predetermined rotational orientation between the expandable structure and the platform," as recited by claim 1. Claims 4, 12, 23, and 24 depend from and add additional features to claim 1. Thus, claims 4, 12, 23, and 24 are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above for claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and pass claims 1, 4, 12, 23, and 24 to allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims currently pending in this application are in a condition for allowance. A telephone interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the allowance of this application.

The Final Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art of which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Final Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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